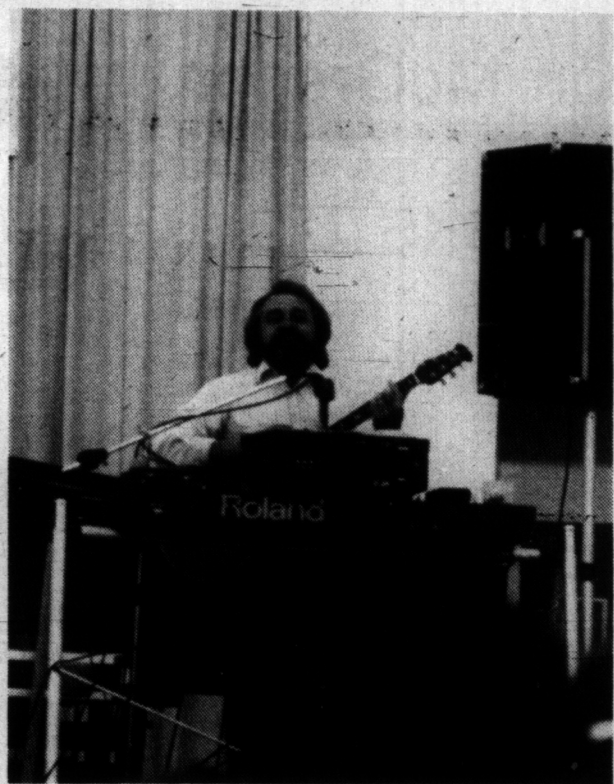


Barry St. Clair of Atlanta preaches with a couple of participants providing an illustration. Rusty Barksdale of Carthage also preached.



David Crain sings for the Youth Evangelism Conference.

Youth Evangelism Conference

The annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference took place over the Christmas holidays, attracting more than 2,200 participants from across the state. Guy Henderson, evangelism director for the sponsoring Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, reported eight new Christians and 10 commitments for vocational Christian service resulted from the conference.



The choir ensemble "Potter's Clay" from Parkway Church, Natchez, provided music during the conference. The other musical group was "His Disciples" from Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson.

Missionary saves daughter's life

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Vaughn Ross saved his daughter's life with the aid of cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) — and a parking place.

Ross, of Plainview, Texas, planned to wait with the car while his wife, Johnene, and 17-year-old daughter, Renae, visited the dentist in a downtown medical building. Renae Ross had several wisdom teeth removed that morning and was returning to the dentist to receive a pain relief injection.

Here in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, traffic during business hours has long outstripped the city's roads and parking areas. A parking spot, even an illegal one, is rare. Ross decid-

ed to wait by circling the block a few times, since the office visit would last only a few minutes.

However, after dropping off his wife and daughter, a parking space opened near the dentist's office. Ross darted into the space and walked into the building to join his family.

Not long after Ross sat down in the waiting room, Mrs. Ross called out for help from the dentist's examining room. Ross hurried to the back room.

He found his daughter conscious, but unable to breathe or control her limbs. Her respiratory system had shut down. Moments after receiving the pain relief injection she had remarked, "I can see two of you, Mom." Then her body twitched and

she stopped breathing.

When the dentist's attempts to revive Renae were ineffective, Ross sent his wife out of the office to find a doctor and began working through the steps of CPR he had learned years ago.

"I hadn't even thought about my CPR training for years but when I saw Renae lying there, God gave all the knowledge back to me," he said.

Mrs. Ross soon returned with a doctor, who had stayed late in the building. He gave the girl a shot to counteract an allergic reaction to the pain medication and commended Ross for doing the right thing. The doctor said Ross probably saved his daughter's life.

The Baptist Record

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Thursday, January 11, 1990

Published Since 1877

Students practice faith on streets

By Ken Camp and Joe Westbury

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — More than 500 college students put the teachings of MISSION 90 into practice on the streets here, as they participated in hands-on missions and evangelism projects during two afternoons of the national Southern Baptist missions conference.

Seventeen Fort Worth agencies, ranging from the Salvation Army and local Southern Baptist churches to clubs for inner-city youth and food banks, offered 23 ministry project opportunities. Initially, about 600 students at the missions conference signed up for the 420 slots available.

Karen Park, mission projects coordinator and consultant in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international service department, termed the response "overwhelming. We had no way of knowing how many students would choose to participate," she said.

About a dozen professions of faith were reported by more than 100 students who shared their faith in seven locations ranging from shopping malls to an apartment complex to one of Fort Worth's toughest neighborhoods.

When Cristy Armstrong prayed for a conversion the night before she participated in the evangelistic outreach, she said she was simply making herself available to God and hoped at least one person would be reached through her vocal group's presentation at a shopping mall.

About a dozen professions of faith were reported.

Less than 24 hours later, she led an eight-year-old boy to Christ at the Six Flags Shopping Mall. "That really made my week," said the Blue Mountain College freshman.

At the same time, another team from various colleges was shooting baskets on Hemphill Street. Before the afternoon was over, three professions of faith were registered as the students shared their faith with youth who joined them for the game.

One of the largest mission projects involved 40 students who sorted and packaged about 9,800 pounds of canned goods at the Greater Tarrant County Food Bank.

"I wanted to tell them how Jesus can give them direction."

Scott Porter of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., was one of 10 students who worked at the East Side Boys Club. Porter, a member of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, said he felt a calling into youth ministry while attending a fall retreat and volunteered for the boys club to gain experience working with young people.

"I've found out that kids are kids. These really are good kids here," he said. "They just need someone to show them the Lord."

Ben Freeman, a member of First Baptist Church in Paris, Texas, and a student at Paris Junior College, wanted to work at the boys club to help steer the young men there away from the lifestyle he had led prior to his Christian conversion. Freeman spent two and a half years in state prison for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and currently is on parole.

"I wanted to tell the kids my testimony and try to keep them from winding up in the Texas Department of Corrections," he said. "I wanted to tell them how Jesus Christ can change their lives and give them direction."

Causey calls for solemn assembly

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Legislative session cranks up

The Mississippi Legislature has entered its 1990 session, and a number of bills of interest to Baptists were prefilled. The Baptist Record will make every effort to keep readers abreast of bills that will be pending before the Legislature so that readers will be able to make decisions concerning those bills.

As we expected, and as noted earlier, there has been a bill filed that would authorize a state lottery. Actually, there are two. Rep. Charles Capps of Cleveland has introduced two concurrent resolutions in the House for that purpose. They are HCR 2 and HCR 13. Both have been assigned to the House Constitution Committee.

Other bills in the House are these:
H-39 — Gambling devices on board certain vessels not unlawful. Curt Hebert of Pascagoula. Judiciary B Committee.

H-45 — Carrying concealed weapon while intoxicated to carry mandatory jail sentence. Delma Furniss of Rena Lara. Judiciary B Committee.

H-46 — No statute of limitations for offense of child abuse. Bob Short of Gulfport. Judiciary B Committee.

H-58 — Create clean indoor air act. Bill Denney of Jackson. Public Health Committee.

H-77 — Liquor referendum to be held on city level. Wes McInvalle, Batesville. Ways and Means Committee.

Other bills in the Senate are these:
S-2024 and S-2025 — Authorize additional exemptions from sales tax. Cy Rosenblatt of Jackson. Finance Committee.

S-2039 — Prohibit advertising alcoholic beverages on billboards. Wootsie Tate of Picayune. Finance Committee.

S-2044 — No open alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles. Bill Harpole of Starkville. Judiciary Committee.

S-2127 — Prohibit lotteries shown on TV programs. Robert Monty, Greenville. Judiciary Committee.

S-2130 — Provide for licensure of off-track wagering facilities. Robert Monty, Greenville. Finance Committee.

S-2140 — Alcohol boating safety act. Bob Montgomery of Canton. Wildlife and Judiciary Committees.

S-2149 — Increase penalty for sale of one ounce or less of marijuana. Terry L. Jordan, Philadelphia. Judiciary Committee.

These bills have been filed in the House since the session got under way:

H-245 — Death penalty not applicable to minors. Percy Watson, Hattiesburg. Judiciary A Committee.

H-265 — Prohibit use of tobacco vending machines in state. Jimmy Tyrone, Monticello. Judiciary B Committee.

H-266 — Prohibit distribution of tobacco products to persons under disability of minority. Jimmy Tyrone, Monticello. Judiciary B Committee.

FH-288 — No suspended sentence nor parole for selling drugs to minors. John Reeves, Jackson. Judiciary B

Committee.

H-354 — Revise gambling prohibitions under alcohol and beer laws. Daniel Guice, Ocean Springs. Ways and Means Committee.

H-356 — Waiver of distance restrictions for sale of alcoholic beverages. Charles Weissinger, Rolling Fork. Ways and Means Committee.

H-358 — Prohibit permit holder from allowing consumption of beer or wine on retail premises. Delma Furniss, Rena Lara. Ways and Means Committee.

H-385 — Authorize state-wide sale of alcoholic beverages. Mitchell Ellerby, Moss Point. Ways and Means Committee.

H-413 — Prohibit students from smoking in public school buildings and on the grounds thereof. Jimmy Tyrone, Monticello. Education Committee.

H-428 — Alcohol boating safety act. Frances Savage, Brandon. Game and Fish Committee.

H-445 — Additional mitigating circumstance in capital case; defendant subject to child abuse. Percy Watson, Hattiesburg. Judiciary A Committee.

HCR-2 — Amend the Constitution; authorize state conducted lottery. Mitchell Ellerby, Moss Point. Constitution Committee.

These bills have been filed in the Senate since the session got under way:

S-2206 — Regulation of legal bingo games and raffles by Tax Commission. Rob Smith, Jackson. Finance Committee.

S-2232 — Prohibit the display of cer-

tain bumper stickers. Pat Welch, McComb. Judiciary Committee.

S-2295 — Require reporting of drug overdoses by physicians or persons in charge of a hospital or health care facility. Rick Lambert, Hattiesburg; and Pat Welch, McComb. Public Health Committee.

S-2296 — Support child abuse shelters from the Children's Trust Fund. Wootsie Tate, Picayune. Public Health Committee.

S-2297 — Provide guidelines and procedures for workplace drug testing. Robert Monty, Greenville. Business and Judiciary Committees.

S-2322 — Fees for greyhound racing. Ollie Mohamed, Belzoni. Finance Committee.

S-2323 — Authorize greyhound racing. Ollie Mohamed, Belzoni. Finance Committee.

S-2328 — Provide for volunteer registration of family child care homes. Jack Gordon, Okolona; and Bunky Huggins, Greenwood. Public Health Committee.

SR3 — Establish select senate committee on drug abuse. Glen Deweese, Meridian. Rules Committee.

Thus far there have been 539 bills and 71 concurrent resolutions filed in the House. In the Senate there have been 348 bills, 10 concurrent resolutions, and three resolutions filed. That is a total of 971 entries. More than likely, the final total will be three times that.

Representatives and senators can be addressed at The New Capitol, P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, Miss., 39205. The telephone number is 359-3770.

A life lived well

Another one of those who were here when I arrived has passed on to Glory. Foy Rogers died Dec. 28, and at the early age of 72. He died of pneumonia, but for the last few years he had been afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

And that explains the nature of this piece.

During the funeral service, as various testimonies were presented, it began to evolve that Foy was a man who believed in witnessing and would do so whenever the opportunity presented itself. In fact, if there were no opportunity, he would make one.

It was a very warm and moving funeral service, and his two sons participated. His older son, Jerrell, of Birmingham, Ala., spoke briefly and presented special music as he sang, "How Great Thou Art," with the congregation joining on the last chorus. His younger son, Randy, of Jackson, presented a testimony.

During his remarks, Randy told about a trip he and his father made from Tupelo to Jackson on the Natchez Trace Parkway after Foy began to be afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. Paraphrased, it went thusly:

Foy said to Randy, "What is your name?" Randy replied, "I'm Randy Rogers." Foy declared, "Glad to meet

you. I'm Foy Rogers. Arel you a Christian?"

And Randy declared that Foy witnessed to him for quite a time.


Later Hollis Bryant, consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department, where Foy was director until his retirement, told of a similar incident.

Hollis noted that he and Foy were in Miami Beach for the Southern Baptist Convention and were standing together outside of the hotel. Suddenly Foy said, "Hollis, let's go to the beach." This was a surprise to Hollis, for he wasn't aware that Foy cared for beaches.

They went to the beach, and Foy immediately walked up to a big Jewish fellow who obviously was very wealthy. To open a conversation, Foy said to the man, "Do you know Jesus?" The man said, "Sir, I don't believe in the same religion that you do." Foy said, "You believe in the Old Testament, don't you?" The man replied affirmatively.

Thereupon Foy took out his Bible and began to read the prophecies concerning Christ in the Old Testament. Hollis said that he realized then that the Holy Spirit had sent them out to the beach for that witnessing episode. The Alzheimer's disease was a

Lottie Moon



Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions

Name Eric Still

Amount \$20.00 Envelope No. _____

To: Lottie Moon

I give myself

From: Eric Still

Lottie Moon . . . I give myself

"Dad, I need some money for the mission offering tonight!" said my excited eight-year-old.

"I'm sorry, son," I said. "I gave you all the change I had this morning."

"O.K.," he said sadly. Then he brightened up and said, "Let me borrow your pen."

I gave him the pen and began the song service for our evening worship hour. After the service, we walked home and talked about the Christmas season and tried to remember all the foreign missionaries we knew personally. We named Delos and Wanda Brown in Zambia; Vic and Sharon Johnston in Brazil; Jason and Susan Carlisle in Uruguay; R. T. Buckley in Bangladesh; Leon and Sara White, Rick and Nedra Carter, and Asbury and Hope Martin — all in Argentina.

Then Eric said, "Dad, I borrowed your pen so I could give my offering to Lottie Moon tonight."

"How did you do that?" I asked in a surprised tone. "I didn't think you

had any money."

"I didn't have any money, but our teacher told us tonight in Discipleship Training that it was O.K. if we didn't have any money to give to the Lottie Moon Offering. She said we might want to think about giving ourselves to missions. Anyway, we'll last longer than the money will. So, I decided to get your pen and write a note to the Lottie Moon Offering. I know I can be a missionary at home; but maybe, someday, I can go somewhere like Africa and help tell about Jesus."

My heart swelled with pride to know that my little Eric had discovered the real meaning of missions.

Later in the week, our church treasurer gave me Eric's offering envelope and the note he wrote to keep as a memento of this wonderful experience.

This true story is by Benny Still, minister of music and youth at Woodville Baptist Church and Fort Adams mission pastor.

struggle for the family, but Mrs. Rogers was determined to keep Foy at home as long as possible. And, in fact, he died at home. Randy said it would not have been possible without the help of Louise Milton, a black lady from Clarksdale. She moved in with the family to take care of Foy. She had gone back home for a rest when Foy's last days arrived. The time came when the family could not rouse him, and they sent for Lou. When she arrived, she worked with him to rouse him. He responded and spoke to her, and shortly thereafter died. Randy said it was as if he had been waiting for her to get there.

Foy's family and friends declared that his had been a life lived well.

Unlike Foy Rogers, Miss Ed, Edwina Robinson, had already left the Baptist Building when I arrived in 1974. Her influence still was being felt, however, and continued to be felt until her last days.

I did not have the opportunity to be around her as much as I was around Foy Rogers, but I knew her well. I suppose everyone did who knew her at all.

Her influence was far-reaching, and she made an impact on the ministry of the Baptist Record that will last as long as the records of the paper exist. She took it upon herself to provide an index for Mississippi's Baptist state paper, and she worked at this task for several years.

For that service, we should all be extremely grateful.

She left our ranks last week and moved on to glory.

The Home Mission Board is a missionary sending agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The HMB also provides resources for individual churches.

The HMB works in all 50 states, in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Canada, and in the American Virgin Islands.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, with 14.8 million members.

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Mississippi EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Jan. 29-31

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson

Theme: "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you."

- MONDAY EVENING** Guy Henderson, Presiding
- 6:35 Music — Mississippi Singing Churchmen
 - 7:05 Welcome and Prayer
 - 7:15 Special Music
 - 7:20 "The World Out There" (Luke 10:25-37) — Larry McSwain
 - 7:55 Hymn
 - 8:00 Evangelism in Mississippi — Guy Henderson
 - 8:10 Special Music
 - 8:20 "Hope for God's Servants" (I Peter 1:3-9) — Joel Gregory
- TUESDAY MORNING** Bill Causey, Presiding
- 8:45 Praise and Prayer
 - 9:00 "Is There Hope for the Hopeless?" (Col. 1:17-23) — Larry McSwain
 - Hymn
 - 9:45 "Hope for the Church" (Eph. 1:15-23) — Joel Gregory
 - 10:20 Break
 - 10:45 Hymn
 - 10:50 Testimony — Joe Anderson
 - 11:05 Special Music
 - 11:10 "God's People Sharing the Hope" (I Peter 1:13-16) — Howard Ramsey
- TUESDAY AFTERNOON** Chester Vaughn, Presiding
- 1:45 Praise and Prayer
 - 2:00 "How Lost Are the Lost?" (Eph. 2:1-13) — Roy Fish
 - Hymn
 - 2:40 "Wilt Thou Revive Thy People" — Gary Bowlin
 - 3:15 Break
 - 3:35 Here's Hope — Leonard Sanderson
 - 4:00 "Locating and Cultivating Prospects" — Howard Ramsey
 - 4:35 Adjourn.
- TUESDAY EVENING**
- 6:45 Prayer and Praise
 - 7:00 "Is Your Church Ready for Revival?" — Leonard Sanderson
 - 7:40 Special Music
- CONCERT**
- 8:15 "The Privilege of Witnessing" (II Cor. 5:20-21) — Fred Wolfe
- WEDNESDAY MORNING**
- 8:45 Praise Him
 - 9:00 "The Seeking Father" (Luke 15:11-24) — Roy Fish
 - 9:45 Testimony —
 - 10:00 Special Music
 - 10:15 "Christ Coming: Our Ultimate Hope" (Titus 2:11-14) — Fred Wolfe
 - 11:00 Adjourn.

Dual commissioning occurs at MISSION 90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists commissioned 21 home and foreign missionaries in a special dual commissioning service Dec. 30 at MISSION 90 in which leaders called for renewed dedication to world evangelization.

The Dec. 27-31 national student missions conference was only the second time the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign mission boards have jointly commissioned missionaries and the first time leaders of the Sunday School Board have participated.

At the conclusion of the three-hour service, several hundred of the more than 3,600 conference registrants responded to a call to dedicate their lives to Christ or respond to a call to missions.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, charged the missionaries — and the audience — to be in the seed-sowing business for Christ.

"Is there anyone here who is not a missionary tonight? All of us, when we have named the name of Christ, have become missionaries," he said.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, contrasted the luxury in which the former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu lived while his countrymen barely survived in squalor and poverty.

"While he and his family dined from

three-page menus the people lived on starvation rations. Even their two black Labradors were given printed menus for their meals," he told the students.

Parks said the world is outraged at such hoarding of luxury when there is such need but warned that many Christians hoard God's riches and refuse to share them with a spiritually dying world.

While stressing that the call to missions is a call to sacrifice, Parks cited the need for a generation that will say, "I may die in his service, but I will not let the world die without hearing of God's love and forgiveness."

Home Board appoints Powells to Las Vegas

Jeff Powell, a native of Jackson who grew up in Parkway Church, and his wife, Mary Ellen Thomas, a native of Vicksburg who grew up in First Church, have been named as home missionaries in Las Vegas.

The Powells are serving as church planters in that city, and Jeff is Baptist (Continued on page 4)



The Capertons

FMB appoints Mississippians

RICHMOND, Va. — Winston J. (Cape) and Barbara Caperton were among 24 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Dec. 12 at the Foreign Mission Board chapel in Richmond, Va.

As missionary associates the Capertons will live in Israel, where they will work as dormitory parents for missionary children who live away from home at a hostel.

He was assistant vice president for training and development for United Services Automobile Association in San Antonio, when he retired in 1986. They are members of First Church there.

Born and reared near Noxapater, Miss., Caperton is the son of the late

Winston and Neppie Caperton. He considers First Baptist in San Antonio his home church. Noxapater Baptist Church also was influential in his Christian growth.

He is a graduate of Ole Miss. Mrs. Caperton, the former Barbara Carter, received her diploma from the Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in San Antonio. She achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Texas. Since 1970, she has been elementary school nurse for the Judson Independent School District in Converse, Texas.

The Capertons, who have two grown children, will go to Rockville, Va., in January for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 11, 1990

Published Since 1877

Bill Causey calls for Jan. 16 solemn assembly

A solemn assembly, a day of prayer, has been called for Mississippi Baptists by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, for Jan. 16 at Parkway Church, Jackson.

This follows a solemn assembly that was called throughout the Southern Baptist Convention on Sept. 17, 1989. This solemn assembly day was called by a committee of Southern Baptist Convention agency executives including Douglas Beggs of the Brotherhood Commission, Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board, Minette Drumwright of the Foreign Mission Board, Barbara Elder of Woman's Missionary Union, and T. W. Hunt and Avery Willis of the Sunday School Board.

The solemn assembly in Mississippi will begin at 10 a.m. and go on for as long as anyone cares to stay, Causey indicated. Those who will not

be able to arrive by 10 a.m. may come as they are able, and they may leave as they need to, he said. The assembly will continue as long as anyone is present, he noted.

In a letter of information about solemn assemblies, the committee declared:

"We believe that solemn assemblies are God's answer for dealing with corporate sin, and, therefore, are very important for us at this time in the life of the denomination. In the Bible these spiritual awakenings came from the top leadership down and, therefore, were Word-centered instead of experience-centered. God used them to produce long-lasting changes in society. When the leaders did not respond as the Lord demanded, the people and the nation suffered the consequences.

"You will note that the 'Call to Prayer' is stated in such a way that

any leader in any capacity is encouraged to call a solemn assembly for those persons he or she leads."

Joel 2:15-17 is one of several scriptures used in support of the need for solemn assemblies.

A solemn assembly is defined by the SBC committee as the urgent call by a leader to all the people to come together to humble themselves, to seek God's face, to fast and pray, to turn from their wicked ways, to hear God's Word read, to remove all things and practices from their lives that are displeasing to God, to worship God with all their hearts, and make a solemn covenant with God, and to become God's instruments to spread the gospel to all the world.

Details of the Mississippi Baptist solemn assembly are being handled through the office of the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Baptist relief work starts in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Panama (BP) — The day after Christmas, Southern Baptist missionaries and Panamanian Baptists began relief efforts in Panama City following the U.S. military invasion Dec. 20.

Most combat in the capital ceased just two days after deposed Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Noriega sought refuge at the Vatican Embassy Dec. 24, according to news reports. Civilian traffic resumed and Panamanians began returning to work, Southern Baptist missionaries said.

At least one Panamanian Baptist casualty has been reported, a teenage boy who attended Las Mananitas Baptist Church in Panama City. He was killed Dec. 24 when one of

Noriega's "dignity battalions" fired on him on the side of a road, said Southern Baptist missionary James Gilbert, from Jackson, Miss.

Church members were not able to travel to the nearest cemetery to bury the victim, so a member's parents donated land to begin a new cemetery in the neighborhood, said Gilbert. Pastor Nieves Ortega conducted the funeral on Christmas Day.

Members of the disaster relief committee of the Baptist Convention of Panama have begun food distribution efforts, said Gilbert, who directs the committee. Baptist volunteers obtained food from a U.S. government deposit Dec. 26 after it was made available to nonprofit organizations providing relief.

"Each day is better and we feel like the Lord has really answered prayer. We feel like the worst is over," said Gilbert. "We're thankful for the relief that's coming in and we hope to work with it as long as there's a real need here.

On Dec. 26, Baptist workers in vehicles loaded with food were stopped en route to Redemption Baptist Church, headquarters for the Baptist relief effort, said Gilbert. Troops rerouted the volunteers because of continued sniper fire on some streets, he said.

Once food arrived at Redemption, Southern Baptist missionaries and Panamanian Baptist volunteers sacked the food to be given to the 44 Baptist (Continued on page 6)

Edwina Robinson dies of heart attack

Edwina Robinson — widely known among Mississippi Baptists as "Miss Ed" — of 648 Lexington Avenue, Jackson, died of a heart attack Jan. 4 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, at age 83. She had retired May 1, 1971, as executive director of Mississippi Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union.

Robinson

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Jan. 6 at Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, with burial in Magee Cemetery.

The funeral message was delivered by James Street, Calvary pastor. Marjean Patterson, currently executive director, Mississippi WMU, presented "Reflections," recalling Miss Robinson's contributions to Woman's Missionary Union. The Chancel Choir of Calvary Church sang "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." James Arrington Goff was the organist.

Miss Robinson, born in Magee March 12, 1906, the daughter of a doctor, had lived in Jackson 57 years. She was graduated from Magee High School; Blue Mountain College (bachelor of arts and bachelor of music degrees, 1926); and WMU Training School, later a part of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. (master of religious education, 1929). Blue Mountain College presented her an honorary doctor of humanities degree in 1968.

At the time of her retirement, she had worked for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 37 years and 10 months, which at the time was thought to be the longest term of service of any employee. She had been executive director of WMU from 1944 to 1971 and before that had been young people's secretary of the state WMU from 1933 to 1944. She was instrumental in the establishment of Camp Garaywa at Clinton. Her mother, the late Prudie Robinson, was long-time dietitian at the camp.

Miss Robinson had served on the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance and on the Executive

Committee of the North American Baptist Women's Union.

Jobs in her youth included a year of teaching in Noxubee County; a summer of Training Union field work; a time of being youth worker at First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., and of being education director at First Baptist Church, San Marcos, Texas.

She had visited Southern Baptist missionaries in 20 countries on four continents.

Following retirement, she continued to do mission work in a wide assortment of ways. In 1971, she went to New York, under sponsorship of the Home Mission Board, SBC, to help establish a statewide WMU program for the Baptist Convention of New York. In 1973, she traveled to Europe under direction of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, to work in English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe.

For a long time, she did volunteer work for the American Bible Society, displaying and selling Bibles in churches and at conventions and other meetings.

From 1971 to 1988, she continued to do part-time work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Some of her activities during that time included indexing the Baptist Record and conducting oral history interviews for the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. She was chairman of the committee which correlated the needlepoint tapestry which now hangs in the lobby of the Baptist Building, and she spent many hours contributing to the needlepoint itself.

Miss Robinson was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, where she had taught Sunday School more than 40 years, and was currently active in the Woman's Missionary Union. In 1988, she attended the centennial meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, held in Richmond, Va.

Survivors include two brothers, L. Gayle Robinson of Dallas, Texas and Lowrey Robinson of Jackson.

In 1971, Wilda Fancher wrote the biography of Miss Robinson, *Where Is Edwina?*, and the book was released during the state WMU convention held at Calvary, Jackson.

Home Board appoints Powells

(Continued from page 3)
tist Student Union director at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Before being appointed by the Home Mission Board, Powell was minister of youth at First Church, Starkville, from 1985 to 1989, and at Pinelake Church, Brandon, from 1981 to 1984. During his tenure in Starkville, Powell was in touch with many students at Mississippi State University. Mary Ellen has served as a summer missionary in Idaho.

Powell began his BSU work at UNLV with three students. He now has 12 and has 200 names of others who are prospects.

He noted that Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the nation and that there are more churches per capita in the city than in any other. The reason for this, he said, is the many wedding chapels that are there. He said that 80 percent of the city is unchurched.

Powell has a four-point plan for the establishment of a new church in the

southeast section of the city. He plans to have the first service for the new church on Easter Sunday, April 15. The first point is a door-to-door visitation effort, knocking on 100 doors per week. He distributes 100 brochures per seek in this endeavor. Second, he will have a home Bible study beginning right away. Third is a telephone survey to be undertaken in March. For this he will have volunteers who are Mississippi State University students. They and local helpers will make 20,000 calls per week in conducting the telephone survey. The fourth point will be mass mailings based on the telephone survey.

The Powells have been in Las Vegas since Oct. 1. Their new church will be sponsored by the Paradise Valley Church in Las Vegas.

Jeff is a graduate of Mississippi College and has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary. Mary Ellen has a bachelor of arts and a master of arts degree from Mississippi State University.



Gulf Coast plans "Metro Thrust"

The Gulf Coast Baptist Association recently held a "Metro Thrust: Associational Strategy Planning" retreat at Gulfshore Assembly. Objectives and goals for the next five years were developed. Shown looking over the report of one of the small groups are left to right: Allan Moseley, chairman and pastor of Bayou View Church, Gulfport; Ed Gilman, consultant; and Bobby Perry, executive director, Gulf Coast Association.

New SS writers begin six months of lessons

The Sunday School lesson writers for January-June, 1990, are Wayne Campbell, Life and Work; Tommy Vinson, Uniform; and Allan Moseley, Bible Book.

Wayne Campbell, pastor of Chunky Church at Chunky, was born in Hood River, Oregon. In addition to former pastorates at West Corinth; First, Burnsville; and Osborne Creek, he has taught high school English and literature. He was ordained by Harmony Church at Walnut.

Campbell, a graduate of William Carey College, attended Midwestern Seminary, and has done graduate work at the University of Mississippi. He and his wife, Sarah, have three children, Brad, Brett, and Amber.

He has served as associational Sunday School director, associational VBS director, and associational moderator. Tommy Vinson, pastor of Cross-gates Church, Brandon, moved there from the pastorate of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven. A Tupelo native, he and his wife, Rose Marie, have three children.

He has a B.A. degree from Blue Mountain College and master of divinity degree from Luther Rice Seminary. Also he attended Mid-America Seminary and was

graduated from the Federal Aviation Academy as an air traffic controller. Florida Bible College awarded to him an honorary doctor of divinity degree. Macedonia Church, Lee County, ordained him.

Other pastorates he has served were at Beulah, Myrtle; Brewer, Shannon; and Oakland, Corinth.

Vinson has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference. He preached the convention sermon in 1989.

Allan Moseley, pastor of Bayou View Church, Gulfport, was born in Montgomery, Alabama. He and his wife, Sharon Lea, have two children, Jonathan Allan, and David James.

Moseley has a B.A. degree from Samford University and doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He was pastor at Big Level Church, Wiggins, before moving to Bayou View.

In 1980-81 he was minister of music and youth at Popp's Ferry Mission, Biloxi. During the summer of 1978, he was a student missionary to Massachusetts. Eastern Hills Church, Montgomery, ordained him.

MBREA convention scheduled for February 1-3 in Biloxi

The annual convention for the Mississippi Religious Education Association will be held at the Biloxi Hilton, Feb. 1-3.

Bruce Powers, professor of religious education at Southeastern Seminary, will be the keynote speaker. Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will also speak to the group.

There will be special interest sessions along with age-group related sessions. Leading the childhood education sessions will be Barbara Brown, minister of childhood education, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and J. R. Blakney, acting executive director of the New Orleans Baptist Association. Blakney will be speaking to trends in this area of ministry.

Jerry Pounds, professor of youth

education, New Orleans Seminary, will lead the youth ministers' section. Steve Street, minister of singles, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will lead the section aimed at ministers to singles/college students.

There is a \$25 registration fee, payable to MBREA. Tommy Woodard, minister of education, First Church, Senatobia, MS 38668 should receive the fee by Jan. 15. Room reservations (\$40 for single, \$46 for double) can be made by contacting the Biloxi Hilton (601-388-7000 or 1-800-445-8667).

Current officers include: Bill Crider, First Church, Hattiesburg, president; Tommy Sparkman, Parkway Church, Jackson, president elect; Gary Shows, First Church, McComb, vice president; and Tommy Woodard, secretary/treasurer.

December gifts show shortfall

December gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program brought the 1989 total to \$18,906,337, according to an announcement by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

That total for the year is \$197,204 under the allocated budget. Last fall, the convention board lowered the 1989 budget by \$1 million, thus escaping a \$1,197,204 shortfall. Convention-related expenditures were curtailed at that time.

December gifts totaled \$1,431,999, more than half a million less than that given in December of 1988 which was \$1,945,254. That month's giving in 1988 was given the impetus of a special request to church treasurers to mail church checks before the end of 1988. That meant that some monies were received in December of 1988 which would ordinarily have been received in January of 1989, decreasing giving totals last year.

The 1990 budget, passed during the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in November, reflects a more conservative estimate of church giving. That total is \$19,581,130 with 36.53 percent going to Southern Baptist causes outside Mississippi.

Causey reported that 58 churches which had given to the Cooperative Program in 1988, gave nothing in 1989. 892 churches gave less in 1989 than in 1988. And 913 churches gave more in 1989 than in 1988.

Cooperative Program gifts are voluntarily given by the nearly 2,000 participating Baptist churches in the state and used for missions, Christian higher education, leadership training, and child care.

Each summer, youth groups are assigned by the Home Mission Board to a project that has been requested by a missionary or mission pastor.

Church starting, church growth, evangelism and ministry are top priorities for the Home Mission Board.

Doctors, dentists to hear Tarpley

John Tarpley, SBC missionary surgeon to Ogbomoso, Nigeria, will be the featured speaker at the South

Mississippi meeting of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship on Sat., Jan. 20.

The noon luncheon will be held in the fellowship hall of Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. All health care professionals and spouses are invited to attend.

Special music will be provided by Marsha May and Marianna Madden. Henry Love, executive director of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship, will bring an update on the national organization.

Dr. Tarpley is a 12-year veteran missionary to Nigeria and a Mississippi. He is on furlough as assistant clinical professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Tickets for the lunch meeting are \$10 each and must be reserved before Jan. 15 by calling John McGraw, 428-4911 or Bob Holifield 649-2011.



Tarpley

Column on drugs, alcohol will begin next week

By Don Nerren

The Chemical Dependency Center at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center next week will begin a question and answer column in the Baptist Record. Questions involving drugs and alcohol will be answered by professionals on the staff at CDC.

President Bush has asked us to be concerned about the drug and alcohol problems that face us today. The Baptist Record is providing this space each week to help with some answers to this mounting problem in our land. We must ask questions and seek answers now!

Mississippi Baptists have been in the treatment ministry since 1976 and have been doing it successfully. Many are finding purpose in living the sober and clean life. Families are being put back together. We witness this daily at Baptist CDC. Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center is totally dedicated to its program of recovery for those suffering from and/or directly affected by drug addiction and alcoholism. The program is one that deals with the whole per-

son — chemical dependency is a disease of the mind, body, and spirit — all three must be treated if healing is to occur.

The church today needs to recognize and understand the power of addiction as a very real factor in the lives of its people. The church must get involved in the addicted person's recovery. We cannot close our eyes and hope this problem will go away. After treatment we send the recovering person back to the community and back to live on the church field. This is where the church comes in and assists with the person's recovery.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.

Don Nerren is a chaplain at the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

Sunday School will conduct growth connection workshops

The Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will conduct a series of workshops in 2 towns, dealing with barriers that block growth through the Sunday School, the week of Jan. 22-25.

The workshop will be built around a format of examining what constitutes a barrier to growth and recognizing barriers that affect most churches. Participating Sunday School workers and church staffers will define the barriers that relate to their churches and seek to discover ways to overcome them.

The workshops will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday or at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday depending on location.

Church and Sunday School leaders are encouraged to pre-register by contacting the Sunday School Department at 968-3800 or writing Randy Tompkins, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. It is not necessary to pre-register.

Participants who pre-register, however, are given the opportunity to have a computer print-out of their church at a cost of \$15. Churches participating are requested to bring the Sunday School secretary's general record book to the workshop.

Keith Wilkinson is director of the

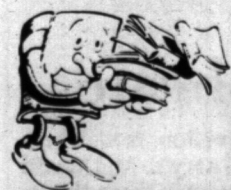
Sunday School Department.

The dates, locations, leaders, and where they work are: Jan. 22, First Batesville, Bob Buckner, Crossgates, Brandon; Second Greenville, Marc Howard, Calvary, Belmont; First, Yazoo City, Judd and Ruth Allen, Jackson; Parkway, Natchez, Gary Shows, First, McComb; and Highland, Laurel, Bill Crider, First, Hattiesburg;

Jan. 23, First, Southaven, Bob Buckner, Crossgates; First, Grenada, Marc Howard, Calvary, Belmont; First, Carthage, Judd and Ruth Allen, Jackson; First, McComb, Gary Shows, First, McComb; and First, Escatawpa, Bill Crider, First, Hattiesburg;

Jan. 24, First Holly Springs, Bob Buckner, Crossgates; First, Aberdeen, Marc Howard, Calvary, Belmont; First, Mendenhall, Judd and Ruth Allen, Jackson; First, Columbia, Gary Shows, First, McComb; First, Biloxi, Bill Crider, First, Hattiesburg;

Jan. 25, Harrisburg, Tupelo, Bob Buckner, Crossgates; and First, Meridian, Marc Howard, Calvary, Belmont; First, Picayune, Judd and Ruth Allen, Jackson; First, Louisville, Gary Shows, First, McComb; Temple, Hattiesburg, Bill Crider, First, Hattiesburg.



Book reviews

Price, W. Wayne; **THE CHURCH AND THE RITES OF PASSAGE**; Nashville; Broadman.

The book deals with the stages of life one passes through and gives helpful suggestions for the church to consider in ministry to people during each stage.

The book is divided into seven chapters. Each deals with a different stage of life. The stages the author covers are birth, baptism, graduation, marriage, retirement, death, and transitions in marriage, residence,

and career.

The idea for the book is excellent. It could be very helpful to any minister. However, the author could communicate more clearly by getting away from the theological and liturgical "jargon" that is used throughout the book. I believe this would make the book more helpful to the average Baptist minister and layperson.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Dec. 7 issue of the Baptist Record: Calhoun: Big Creek; Covington/Jeff Davis: Calhoun; George: FBC Lucedale; Kemper: Dekalb; Lawrence: Jayess; Leflore: Christ and FBC Greenwood; Monroe: South Nettleton; and Northwest: FBC Days.

Recommendations sought for key SBC appointments

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — An open letter has been issued by Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines seeking recommendations of people to appoint to key committees to serve at the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

"I am beginning the process which will result in my appointments for the 1990 Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee," wrote Vines, pastor of First Church hereof. "I believe that the 90s may well be the greatest years in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention," Vines told Baptist Press. "Baptisms are moving up, if ever so slowly, and the last two months of Cooperative Program (unified budget) giving have been record breaking months."

"I am looking for good, committed, salt-of-the-earth Southern Baptist people to appoint," he said. "I want them to be Bible-believing, cooperating Southern Baptists."

Vines added he plans to follow a practice he established last year in appointing "as many new people as I possibly can," people who have not had SBC responsibilities before.

Under the SBC constitution and bylaws, the SBC president appoints the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the two vice presidents; the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents; and the Tellers Committee "in consultation with" the SBC registration secretary.

The Committee on Committees, composed of a layperson and a clergyman from each of the 33 eligible states, nominates the Committee on Nominations for the subsequent year as well as any other committee not otherwise provided for.

The Resolutions Committee, made up of 10 members, including three current members of the SBC Executive Committee, deals with all resolutions introduced during the annual meeting.

The Credentials Committee, which last year was made up of 22 members, oversees registration and deals with any disputed seating of messengers.

The Tellers Committee, which last year had 13 members, tabulates all votes at the annual meeting.

He asked people wishing to make nominations to send the material to him by March 1, 1990, at First Baptist Church, 124 Ashley Street, Jacksonville, Fla. 32202. The envelopes should be designated on the lower left-hand side, "SBC Committee Recommendations."

Vines said the process is made easier if specific information on the nominees is included.

The information should include: — Whether the nominee has serv-

ed on SBC committee or board previously, and whether any member of the nominee's church currently is serving or has previously served on a national committee or board.

— The full name, correctly spelled, of the nominee; complete mailing address, including ZIP code; home and business telephone numbers, including area code; whether the nominee is clergy or denominationally related or is a layperson. The correct title or occupation of the nominee should be included, as well as the complete business address.

— The nominee's church affiliation, including the church mailing address and telephone number; total church membership, the amount the church gave through the Cooperative Program unified budget during the 1988-89 associational year and the percentage of the church budget the CP gives represented.

— The number of baptisms in the church during the 1988-89 associational year, whether the nominee plans to attend the 1990 annual meeting, and the state convention in which the nominee lives.

Vines asked that nominations include the nominator's name, title, mailing address and home and business telephone numbers.

Copies of a form on which to submit nominations are available from Vines' church.

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Bivocationals plan national association

By Jim Newton

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — A national fellowship, the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association, has been organized to encourage "tent-maker" ministries in the denomination.

About 30 bivocational ministers from throughout the nation voted to establish the fellowship during a meeting here, just prior to the annual sessions of the National Council for Bivocational Ministries this fall.

Ken Cook of Jackson, a bivocational minister who works with Mississippi Power and Light, said the two organizations would work together on similar objectives but would have different roles.

The association will sponsor an annual meeting, probably in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention, offering an opportunity for fellowship and affirmation of bivocational ministers.

Cook was elected chairman of a steering committee to draft a constitution and bylaws for the association and make plans for future meetings.

The council gives guidance to the work of Dale Holloway, national consultant on bivocational ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

During the council's meeting, board Vice President Charles Chaney announced that Holloway would become the first of seven regional consultants to coordinate an intensified emphasis

on bivocationalism by the board. "Bivocational ministries will occupy a more strategic place in the overall strategy of the Home Mission Board in the years ahead than it has in the past," Chaney said.

Chaney, vice president for extension, said the board plans to intensify use of bivocationalists to start new churches, especially in black and ethnic communities. One man, such as Holloway, cannot serve the needs of bivocational leaders across the nation, he said.

Establishing 10 churches with 100 members each, led by bivocational pastors, is more effective than to have one church with 1,000 members led by a full-time pastor, Chaney noted. Bivocational strategy is four times more effective in evangelism and church growth efforts, he estimated.

The council re-elected Glen Ailshie, a bivocational minister from Mullins, S.C., as president; re-elected Cook as first vice president; elected Claude Slate, bivocational pastor from Fort Worth, Texas, as second vice president; and elected Frank Phillips, bivocational pastor from Gainesville, Fla., as recording secretary.

About 65 people from 16 states attended the council meeting, a 25 percent increase over the previous high attendance. Sessions were held at Day Star Baptist Church in Florence, Miss., where Holloway is pastor.

Jim Newton writes for the Home Mission Board.



Lowrey Compere as Simon Peter.

Stanton plans scripture fest

Dramatic presentations of *The Gospel of Mark* will be given at both services at Stanton Church on Jan. 14, by W. L. Compere, president emeritus, Clarke College. At 11 a.m., selected passages from the first half of the gospel will be given; and in the 1:30 p.m. service, passages from the latter half will be given in the role of Simon Peter in costume.

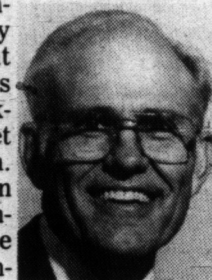
Having committed to memory the entire *Gospel of Mark*, Compere has presented portions of this gospel record in many churches.

The portrayal of Simon Peter in costume adds color, interest, and inspiration to the presentations. Lunch will be served at the church.

MasterLife alumni dinner planned for Jan. 29

The second annual MasterLife alumni dinner will be held in conjunction with the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference on Monday evening, Jan. 29 at Colonial Heights Church in Jackson. The banquet will begin at 5 p.m. and conclude in time for the evening session of the Evangelism Conference.

Ed Thiele, associate professor of discipleship at New Orleans Seminary, will be representing the Leadership Development Section of Discipleship Training Department,



Thiele

ment, Nashville, as the speaker. He will give an update on MasterLife as well as highlight the Lay Institute for Equipping (LIFE) courses.

All MasterLife alumni, certified leaders, co-leaders, facilitators and graduates of LIFE courses are invited to join in this fellowship dinner between the afternoon and evening sessions of the Evangelism Conference.

The Evangelism Conference will be held at Broadmoor Church on Northside Drive, Jackson. Colonial Heights Church at 5708 Old Canton Road will host the MasterLife dinner. Tickets are \$5 and are available through the Discipleship Training Department in the Baptist Building which is sponsoring the dinner.

Discipleship Training to conduct new member training workshop

The Discipleship Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will conduct a series of New Member Training Workshops in 1990. These are offered to help churches prepare to do follow-up to the Here's Hope Simultaneous Revivals scheduled for 1990.

Each of the workshops will be conducted 7-9 p.m. Materials available for new member training in the local church will be previewed. The administrative details for this ministry will also be discussed as well as schedules and promotion of attendance.

On Jan. 22 at Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, Glenn Smith of the Discipleship Training Department, Nashville, will lead the workshop.

Thomas Broadhead is Lauderdale Association Discipleship Training Director. Leon Young is director of missions.

Pilgrims Rest Church, Copiah Association, will host a workshop on Feb. 27. Mose D. Dangerfield, director of discipleship training for Mississippi Baptists, will lead this workshop. Pat Bufkin in Associational Discipleship Training director. Talmadge Smith is director of missions.

On March 1, the Springhill Church, Marshall Association, will host a workshop led by Dangerfield. Ronald Rhea is Associational Discipleship Training Director. Don Stanfill is director of missions.

Pacesetters in baptisms — 1989

Church	Baptisms	Pastor
First Church, Jackson	123	Frank Pollard
Bethlehem Church, Alcorn Assoc.	102	Joe Earl Spencer
Pass Road Church, Gulfport	91	Edgar Jackson
Fair River Church, Brookhaven	88	Mike Howell
Harrisburg Church, Tupelo	84	James Chatham II
Park Place Church, Brandon	79	Bobby Williamson
Parkway Church, Jackson	79	
First Church, Gulfport	76	Dean Register
West Jackson Church, Tupelo	74	Bert Harper
Temple Church, Hattiesburg	71	Gary Berry

Pacesetters in ratio of baptisms

Church	Baptisms/ Members	per 100 Members	Pastor
Southcrest Church, Southaven	38/115	33.0	John Jenkins
Lilly Orchard Church, Pascagoula	38/123	30.8	Larry Darden
Faith Church, Simpson Association	17/63	26.9	James Sanders
Concord Church, Calhoun Association	22/82	26.8	Charles Quarles
Bethlehem Church, Alcorn Association	102/431	23.6	Joe Earl Spencer
New Hope Church, Natchez	16/70	22.8	B. L. Calcote
Pine Grove Church, Monroe Association	21/93	22.5	
Schoona Valley Church, Calhoun Association	4/18	22.2	Roger Webb
Freedom Church, Laurel	67/308	21.7	Tracey Hipps
Green Valley, Pontotoc	38/178	21.3	Gary Pettit

(Above is a corrected version of the Pacesetters' listed from last week's paper.)

Baptist relief work starts in Panama

(Continued from page 3)
tist churches and missions in the Panama City area, Gilbert said. An average of 20 sacks per church and 10 per mission will be distributed initially. Church members will take food from house to house to people in need in their areas.

"We're trying to meet some of the urgent needs until people can purchase food of their own," said Gilbert.

Gilbert said the Baptist mission and Baptist associations in the Panama City area have some \$14,000 immediately available in relief funds.

Gilbert's wife, Dorothy, also from Jackson, Miss., was among about 30 volunteers sacking rice, lentils, sugar, shortening, canned milk and salt at Redemption Church. Scripture portions and tracts were placed in each bag, she said.

Near the church, U.S. soldiers patrolling the area were well received by Panamanians, said Mrs. Gilbert. Panamanian Baptist volunteers gave cold drinks to soldiers in the street outside the church, she said.

With ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega in U.S. custody and American troops beginning to withdraw, a spirit of new beginnings is emerging in Panama, said Gilbert.

Against that backdrop, Panamanian Baptists and missionaries are providing hunger relief and preparing for spiritual revival.

About \$15,000 in hunger funds have been distributed throughout the nine associations in the Baptist Convention of Panama, said Gilbert, who directs the convention's disaster relief committee. Funds were provided by the

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Panama Metro Baptist Association. Another \$15,000 has been sent.

After each association receives funds, Baptist leaders purchase food and distribute it through the association's churches and mission congregations.

Church members determine which families in their areas most need food, said Gilbert.

Baptist relief efforts began Dec. 26, when relief committee members acquired food made available to non-profit organizations through a U.S. government deposit.

Because church members take food directly to families, the project provides personal contact with people in need. "More than just giving them a bag of food, (volunteers) can hear them and they can share with them,"

said Gilbert.

Panamanian Baptists are preparing for citywide evangelistic crusades and simultaneous revivals to be held Feb. 28-March 11 in Panama City, Colon and La Chorrera. About 60 Baptist churches and mission congregations will participate. Brazilian Baptist evangelist Nilson Fanini will preach at the crusade in Panama City.

The Foreign Mission Board is seeking to enlist 12 Spanish-speaking and six English-speaking pastors to help with the crusades. During the past year, projects scheduled through the current partnership between Georgia Baptists and Panama Baptists have been placed on hold because of tensions in Panama. In light of recent events, Georgia Baptist partnership projects are being re-evaluated, board officials said.

Castlewoods will celebrate

Castlewoods Church, Jackson, in the Castlewoods subdivision, is welcoming its first full-time pastor in its nine year-ministry. Pastor Larry S. McDonald and his wife, Tina, are natives of the Jackson area, along with their three-year-old son, Benjamin, and six-month-old daughter, Rebecca.

A graduate of Mississippi College, McDonald will soon complete his doctor of ministry degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. In addition, he was recognized this year by Who's Who in American Christian Leadership.

Castlewoods will celebrate its new beginning with special services, Jan. 14, entitled, "A Decade of Destiny." These will include a reception for the McDonalds from 2 until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, concluding with a special Praise Service in the 7 o'clock evening worship time. Castlewoods members extend an invitation for visitors to join them in this time of worship and praise.



McDonald

Thursday, January 11, 1990

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Afghan maker counts her blessings in the new year

Never one to be idle, Lorayne Whitfield Westbrook took up a new avocation at age 83. Like her mother and her daughter, she has a talent for creating beauty with her hands. Now 87, she has made at least 350 lap afghans in the past four years. The colorful coverlets have flowed from her fingers at the rate of two a week. And that's not all. She's given them all away — a couple of dozen at the time to Magnolia Nursing Home, where her only sister is; others to French Camp Academy, to people in wheelchairs, and to individuals in 12 states. The week before Christmas she made one for me, in rose and blue.

Because she is nearly blind, she seldom leaves her home at 1547 West Wingfield Drive, Jackson. (Her cousin, Mrs. Alonzo Skelton of Mantee, introduced her to me.) When I stopped by to see her, she had been working on an afghan in Christmas colors, with silver bells on the fringe. A magnifying glass was lying on top of her large print Bible. Reading through the Bible in a year, she had that day read Psalm 134.

"I am grateful the Lord has kept my fingers nimble," she said. She's not bothered with arthritis. Perhaps exercising her fingers has helped. "I wash dishes in hot water, instead of putting them in the dishwasher," she said. "I think that helps my hands."

A neighbor, Mrs. Bobby (Marjorie) Matthews, periodically delivers a load of afghans to the nursing home; also she brings Mrs. Westbrook yarn as she needs it. A cleaning lady does her house once a month, and also buys her groceries.

"I am alone," she told me, "but I am not lonely." Her husband, a World War I veteran, died in 1933. Her only child, Mrs. Betty Hampson, who had previously had polio, died in 1984. Her only grandchild, Mrs. Dale Brooks, lives in Houston, Texas. Her two brothers are no longer living.

"The Lord has given me many blessings," she said, "but the greatest blessing he has given me was my salvation." Born Aug. 26, 1902, in Houston, Miss., she moved with her family to the Gulf Coast when she was 12, to Pineville near Pass Christian. There were only two churches in the community, a Presbyterian and a Catholic, so all the Protestants went to the Presbyterian. "I was converted one night during prayer meeting," she remembers. "But it was almost two years before I could be baptized." (All her family members were Baptists.) Her uncle, Hubert Collins, minister at Houlika, baptized her at a lake near there.

On the Coast she met and married Harry Westbrook, who worked in the ticket office of the L & N railroad at Ocean Springs. He died when their daughter was a small child. Following her husband's death, due to the economic conditions of the Depression years, she and all her family moved to Jackson. Later her father,

Robert Whitfield, and older brother became deacons in the Robinson Street Baptist Church. (Her uncle Henry Whitfield, her father's brother, was governor of Mississippi in the mid-20s. Bill Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton, wrote a book about him, *Catch the Vision, the Life of Henry L. Whitfield of Mississippi*.)

In Jackson, Mrs. Westbrook studied at business school, and then she went to work in a doctor's office, for a dollar a day! For 35 years, she was employed by doctors. "Two of the best years," she said, "were at the old Veterans' Hospital as secretary to the Chief of Orthopedics." For a while she worked for the Veterans' Administration.

"Then I kept thinking of the name, Neill, but I didn't know anyone named that." Finally, she learned that a Dr. Neill, a neurosurgeon, needed a secretary. She got the job and worked with him for 15 years before she retired.

Back then she wasn't making afghans, but she crocheted a tablecloth for Dr. Neill to give his wife as a Christmas gift (he bought the thread). It was two years in the making.

She said she's thankful for her constant companion, her cat, Lucky. "The Lord knew I'd be alone some day, and he sent me that cat. I don't know what I'd have done without him."

Thirteen years ago, she heard a cat meowing, looked into a sewer opening in the street (she lived on President then), and saw a tiny kitten. It would not climb the pole or the rug that she stuck down in the hole. She called the Engineering Department, but they said they could not come, just for a cat. "But you must! If it rains, the kitten will drown!" The answer was still no, so she called the Small Animal Rescue League. They said they did not have equipment for opening the sewer grating. She called City Hall; while she was still getting a negative response on the phone, she looked out the window and saw two city trucks and six men arriving. After they got the kitten out, she asked them to give it to her, for she was afraid they might just kill it. Next day the vet told her the little black cat was about a month old. Perhaps Lucky still remembers the traumatic experiences of his early days, for he is a shy cat and hides when company arrives. "He loves me, though," Mrs. Westbrook said, "and 'talks' to me!"

Her greatest earthly blessing, she said, was her daughter. Some of Betty's paintings, on silk, I saw displayed in the living room. There too, Mrs. Westbrook keeps the exquisite china dolls which her mother, Sally Atkinson Whitfield, collected and dressed in Godey designs. These have been shown in the Old Capitol in Jackson, as well as in Boston, Washington, D.C., and other places.

Still counting blessings, she mused, "I can lie down at night and not be afraid."



Lorayne Westbrook, ensconced in a cozy corner of her living room, crochets an afghan. In foreground on table are her large print Bible and magnifying glass.



These china dolls are part of a larger group collected and dressed by Mrs. Westbrook's mother. They have been displayed in the Old Capitol museum in Jackson and in other museums around the country.

Carey enrollment increases over 20 percent

William Carey College released Winter Term enrollment figures which show increases in both total students and credit hours. The total number of students enrolled for the term which began Nov. 15 is 985, up from 812 registered for the Winter Term in 1988. This reflects an increase of 21 percent. The total credit hours is 5,883, compared to 4,540 in 1988, and represents an increase of nearly 30 percent.

Carey is offering a Winter Term in Hattiesburg for the first time. Courses are offered at night, or a flexible schedule which allows the non-traditional student to continue working while completing requirements for a degree.

All undergraduate programs increased; however, the most significant increase is on the New Orleans campus, which experienced an almost 300 percent increase from 601 credit hours in Winter of '88 to 2,067 credit hours in Winter of '89.

The boy explained to his teacher why he hadn't yet returned his report card to her. "You gave me three A's and the card still is on the round of the relatives." — Review, Geraldine Mont.

Devotional

Joy in the believer's life

By L. Graham Smith

One of the outstanding characteristics of a Christian is a deep sense of joy. I believe this joy grows in the maturing Christian as other gifts of the Spirit combine to produce what Jesus described as the "abundant life."



Smith

Joy should never be confused with a superficial happiness. David Ring, an evangelist, has defined this distinction well, "Happiness comes and goes, joy comes and stays." Jesus, after a discourse which covered many teachings, said, "These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full." This joy is with us through the valleys of life, as well as the mountaintops or level roads. It is one of the most effective witnessing tools we have. In reality, however, it is more than a tool. It is a life style that recognizes that we are but responsible for the depth of our ministry; Jesus is responsible for its width.

Joy sets the believer apart as one who has begun to set the priorities of life in eternal order, an order that puts this world and circumstances in its temporary place and an ongoing eternal life with God in the permanent setting it should occupy. This joy influences our witness as people become aware that as Christians we are not home, but homeward bound. Thus, the problems, challenges, and relationships of this world take on a lesser perspective with the present empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the overview of eternity which has been given us.

We must be careful not to put on a false mask of a constant grin, but work through the hard realities of life, daring to be an instrument of our Lord — allowing the eternal melody of Jesus to be played through the uniqueness we are becoming by his presence and power. Let us know that in this world the power of Satan and the flesh is great, but Jesus said, "Take courage, I have overcome the world." The world can give us but a temporary and empty happiness; only Jesus can give us JOY both now and forevermore!

Smith is director, Church Music Department, MBCB.

Fire damages unused building at McDowell Rd.

An unused building of McDowell Road Church, Jackson, was heavily damaged by fire Jan. 2, according to news reports.

Jean Ferguson, church secretary, told the Baptist Record the building is a former day care building not in use any more.

The fire was apparently set by a child or children who were turned in by their parents, according to police. Ferguson said that the church had insurance to cover the damages. No estimate of the damages had been made yet, she said.

Two Baptists killed in Romania

ARAD, Romania (BP) — Two Baptist men were among more than 80 people killed in the eastern Romanian city of Arad during fighting to overthrow Nicolae Ceausescu's communist regime in late December, Baptist leaders reported.

As demonstrations grew in Arad in December, Baptist leaders preached sermons calling for liberty. Hundreds of church members knelt to recite the Lord's Prayer and chanted, "God is with us! God is with us!"

Along with demands for freedom, the Baptists called for an emphasis on the gospel. "Every home must have a Bible, and we must build many churches," a speaker said. "We must build more churches — not more bars."

Despite years of oppression, Romanian Baptists number some 160,000, second only to the Soviet Union among European Baptist bodies. They also baptize between 8,000 and 12,000 new converts annually.

Lepsogs to do magic

The LEPSOG clown group, a part of the non-denominational Child Evangelism organization, will be doing a magic demonstration at the

Bright Image Magic Shop off I-55 North in Jackson, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. It is free to the public.

Evangelism Report

Helping To Bring Mississippi And The World To Jesus

	Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams			
Alcorn			
Attala			
Benton			
Bolivar			
Calhoun			
Carroll			
Chickasaw			
Choctaw	1	30	10
Clarke			
Clay			
Copiah			
Covington			
Franklin	14	14	2
George			
Greene			
Grenada			
Gulfcoast			
Hinds-Madison	2		12
Holmes			
Humphreys			
Itawamba			
Jackson	7	22	3
Jasper			
Jeff Davis			
Jones			
Kemper			
Lafayette			
Lamar			
Lauderdale			
Lawrence			
Leake			
Lebanon			
Lee			
Leflore			
Lincoln			
Lowndes			
Marion			
Marshall			
Mississippi			
Monroe			
Montgomery			
Neshoba			
New Choctaw			
Newton			
North Delta	1	64	2
Northwest	1	27	0
Noxubee			
Oktibbeha			
Panola	3	23	2
Pearl River			
Perry			
Pike			
Pontotoc	2		4
Prentiss			
Rankin			
Scott			
Sharkey-Issaquena			
Simpson			
Smith			
Sunflower			
Tallahatchie			
Tippah			
Tishomingo			
Union			
Union Co.			
Walshall			
Warren			
Washington	7	29	6
Wayne			
Webster			
Winston			
Yalobusha			
Yazoo			

Mississippi Baptist activities

Jan. 14-21 Deacon Emphasis Week (CAPM Emphasis)
Jan. 19-20 ASSIST Training Institute; Colonial Heights BC, Jackson; 5 p.m., 19th-3 p.m., 20th (SS)

Names in the news

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP) — Ralph Norton, retired executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died Dec. 19 at his home in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Norton, 76, had cancer and had been ill for several months.

Norton became executive secretary of the convention Jan. 1, 1973. Before accepting the position, he had been pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga since 1948. Norton retired from the TBC post in 1978.

John Merck, vocational evangelist, has moved back to Mississippi from South Carolina. Former pastor of First Church, Stonewall, and Rocky Creek Church, he has been in evangelism eight years. In that time, he states, he has conducted 500 revivals, 200 in Mississippi. Now a member of First Church, Lucedale, he lives at Rt. 9, Box 59, Lucedale, MS 39452 (phone 947-0082).

Woolmarket Church on Nov. 19 licensed Randy Keely to the gospel ministry. Keely is available for supply work. He can be contacted at his home, 11726 Lorraine Road, Gulfport, MS 39503, or by phone at 832-1411. Woolmarket pastor is M. L. Faler.

NASHVILLE — Ken Jordan, a consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, has been promoted to manager of the senior and single adult section in the department. He assumed the job vacated by Horace Kerr, who retired.

Before joining the board in December 1983, Jordan was pastor of Calvary Church in Columbia, Miss., from 1980-83, and pastor of Meadville Church, 1975-80.

Southside Church, Aberdeen (Monroe Association) recently ordained Cleatis Stanford and Jimmy Howell as deacons. Kenneth E. Walters is pastor.

MEMPHIS — Robert Gordon and Al King have been promoted to senior vice presidents at Baptist Memorial Hospital. Both were formerly first vice presidents, Gordon with the hospital and King with Baptist Memorial Health Care System.

First Church, Verona, Lee Association, ordained Randy Wood to the gospel ministry on Dec. 3, 1989. David E. Hamilton, pastor, preached the ordination service. Wood is minister of music and youth at First, Verona.

Ramsey to speak to chaplains

Howard Ramsey will speak to the Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association at its annual breakfast, Jan. 30, at Shoney's Restaurant in Pearl at 7 a.m.

Ramsey, a native of Texas, is director of the personal evangelism department at the Home Mission Board.

The Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Richard Brogan, consultant, serve as staff to the chaplains' group.



Emily Smith, left, and Louise Shaw, right, were honored with plaques and a gift for their many years of service to Friendship East Church, Tallahatchie Association. They are retiring as custodians. Both have been members of the church since they were teenagers. The pastor is J. G. Thomas.

Earl Adams of Byhalia has announced that he has entered the field of evangelism. He is available for religious speaking engagements and for revivals. He may be reached at 257 Church Street, Byhalia, Miss. 38611 or by telephone at 601-838-6671.

Moore marks 50th year in ministry

Levon Moore of Kosciusko observed the 50th anniversary of the beginning of his pastoral ministry on Jan. 7 by preaching at Poplar Flat Church near Louisville. On the first Sunday in January, 1940, he became pastor of Poplar Flat Church.

Moore retired at the end of 1985 after serving 34 years as pastor of Baptist churches and 11 years as director of missions for the Attala Association. Currently he is interim pastor of McAdams Church, his sixth interim since retirement.

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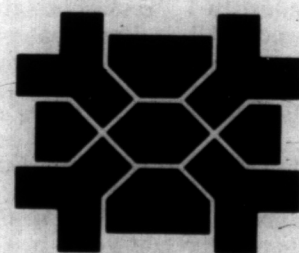
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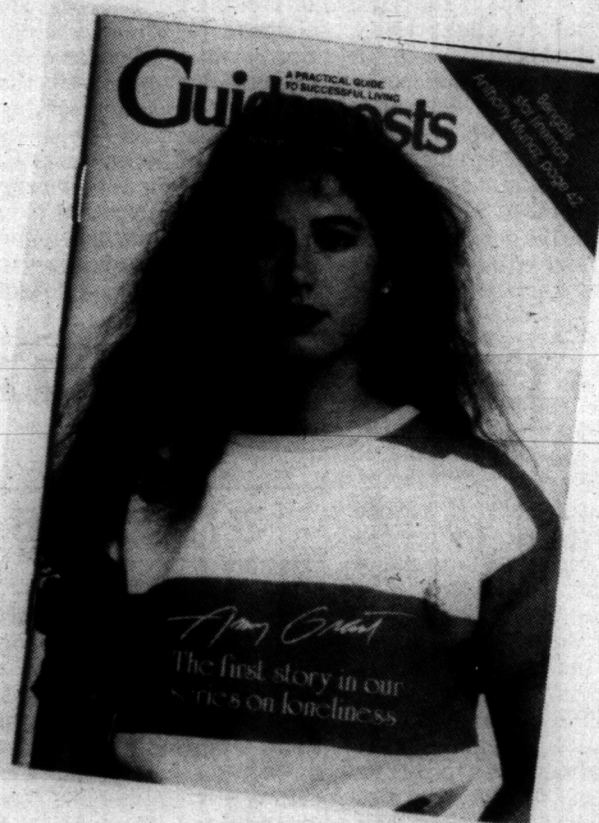
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Balanced living: Solitude and service

By Wayne Campbell
Mark 1:29-39; 6:30-32

At the time of this writing, I have recently experienced an eight-day hospital stay, during which, I had occasion to reflect on the



Campbell

psalmist's words, "He maketh me to lie down..." The psalmist was obviously emphasizing the care of the good shepherd in consistently providing green pastures for his sheep. Whatever the setting in which the Lord stills our frantic activity, slows the hectic pace of our lives, and calms our fretful minds, we can be made aware of his green pastures and still waters of spiritual refreshment for us. Jesus' ministry was, and is, one of meeting needs. In the Capernaum home of Simon Peter, his attention was directed to the need of Simon's mother-in-law who was "sick of a fever." Having healed her, he was shortly thereafter

LIFE AND WORK

thronged by "all the city... gathered at the door." Mark tells us "... he healed many that were sick... and cast out many demons."

The word quickly spread in the surrounding area. But the next morning, when his disciples apparently expected him to be waiting at the doorway to minister to the crowds who would be seeking his help, he was not there. He had slipped away "into a solitary place" to pray. Furthermore, when the disciples found him, he declined their suggestion that he return to take up where he had left off the previous evening. Instead, Jesus proposed to go on into the next towns. Why? Jesus' response (v. 38) makes it evident that he was clearly in touch with his purpose, which was not to see how many people he could heal within a given time, but rather "to confront men with the demand for decision in view of God's absolute claim upon their per-

son" (Wm. Lane, New International Commentary, p. 82).

How was Jesus able to keep his purpose so clearly before him, despite the clamor of the crowds? By withdrawing for solitude and prayer. It was through time spent alone with the Father that Jesus knew that the purpose of God could best be served, not by returning to Capernaum to heal the sick there, but by going on to the next towns to preach there also. Obviously Jesus was not saying there was nothing more he could do in Capernaum; he could have worked there indefinitely, perhaps. But in those solitary hours of prayer, he found his Father's purpose clarified.

Prayerful solitude is essential for each of us if we would remain sensitive to the Father's direction in our lives. Time so spent sensitizes us to the needs of other people and of ourselves, too. But above all, it sensitizes us to the guidance of the only One who knows all needs. And in such times, we become aware of new opportunities for service which we otherwise would miss (vv. 38-39).

When Jesus had sent forth the twelve to preach and to heal, they went at his direction and served in his power. Then, Mark tells us, (6:30-32) they came back and reported all they had done. Instead of sending them out again, Jesus invited them to a place of solitude for rest. If we would do our best for the Lord, we must be our best. Being our best involves proper stewardship of the bodies and minds God has given us. We are so constructed that we cannot operate indefinitely without refueling physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The alternative is burn-out. It should be the desire of every Christian to be in the place and in the condition wherein one can best be used of the Lord. Time for prayer and rest is essential, not only for sensitivity to needs, but also for the strength to minister to those needs.

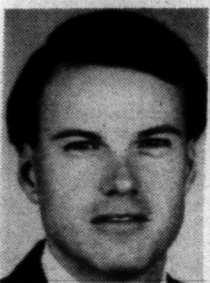
Neither solitude nor activity should be seen as an end in itself, but as a means of fulfilling the ministry that we're to carry out in Jesus' name.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church.

God's people launch a venture of faith

By N. Allan Moseley
Joshua 3:1-5:15

"We've never done it that way before." Anyone who has been around churches for very long has heard those words. Most of us seem to resist



Moseley

change; we prefer the familiar. Perhaps that was one of the factors at work when the twelve spies returned to report to Moses about the Promised Land (Num. 13). It appeared that the challenge was too great. To expect former slaves to storm fortified cities and conquer warring tribes was to expect too much — it had never been done.

The ingredient lacking in the report of the twelve spies was faith. From the account found in Joshua 3-5, apparently the ingredient of faith had been added, even though it was after the passing of a generation, the death of a leader, and over forty years in the wilderness. Joshua told them, "You have not passed this way before" (3:4), but this time they did not shrink before the challenge.

The faith of Joshua and God's people is expressed in several ways. First, there was

BIBLE BOOK

spiritual preparation for this great venture, as Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (vs. 5, NASB). Joshua recognized the importance of holiness in doing God's will. God wanted to manifest his glory through Israel, and that would be impossible with a prodigal people. Past experience had proven that God would not bless impure people, and that lesson would be reinforced in the effort to take Ai (Joshua 7). When a venture of faith is launched, spiritual purity is a priority.

The fact that Joshua ordered the ark to precede the people is significant (3:3, 4, 6, 11). The ark's leadership in the procession was the prescribed way for Israel to move from one place to another (Num. 10). Further, the symbolism of the ark's position is important. The ark represented the presence of God. Joshua's concern about the treatment of the ark indicated his awareness of the necessity of God's presence and blessing in this venture. His command that the ark go first showed that he

recognized the importance of following God's leadership.

Israel's subsequent experience proved that presuming upon the presence of God and mistreating the ark led to disastrous consequences (1 Chron. 13). Crossing the Jordan and conquering Jericho were not Joshua's plans — they were God's. The quality of faith is determined by the object of faith. If one places faith in the ambitious dreams of men, such faith is flawed from the start. However, if one's faith is in God and his leadership, then victory is assured. God provides only where he guides. Success was certain for Joshua and Israel because they resolved to do God's will.

The faith of Joshua and Israel also is expressed in their willingness to move toward the swelling Jordan even before it began to part. In fact, the feet of the priests carrying the ark were actually in the water before anything happened. They were counting on God to do the miraculous. We speak of "getting our feet wet" in some new experience, and "stepping out on faith" — the priests did both at the same time! It took real faith to move forward with no visible assurances.

There is no convincing reason to doubt that the Jordan River actually parted in the manner described (3:16-17; 4:18). There is nothing

to indicate that the description is symbolic or that the passage is poetic. To the contrary, the story purports to be a straightforward account of what happened, and no small number of details is provided in order to get the facts straight. It is clear that even the pagan Canaanites recognized the hand of God in the miraculous deliverance of Israel (2:10-11; 5:1). People in our day should do no less.

Perhaps the greatest way that faith is exercised is in obedience. Crossing the Jordan into Canaan was in obedience to God's leadership. Also, the reinstitution of circumcision (5:2-8) and the celebration of the Passover (5:10) were acts of obedience. In Hebrews 11, the great faith chapter, each of the examples of faith were illustrations of obedience.

Life would be much easier for us if there were no great challenges, but then our faith would be weak and paltry. We need the kind of faith that puts Jordan and Jericho within reach. In order to have such faith, there must be the difficulties of the swelling tide and the city wall. With the eyes of faith we do not see challenges as insurmountable. Instead, we move ahead in holiness, following God's leadership, counting on God's presence, and obeying God's word.

Moseley is pastor, Bayou View, Gulfport.

"Let's share the Bread of Life"

By Tommy Vinson
John 6:35-51

The focal passage for this week follows the account of the feeding of the five thousand. The conclusion of the people after this wonderful manifestation was: "Beyond doubt, this is the prophet who should come" (v. 14).



Vinson

This statement indicates a fuzzy comprehension of who he was. He was much more than just a prophet. They saw what he did, but failed to see why he did it. They saw the bread in his hand, but failed to see that he was the "true bread from heaven." James Sullivan succinctly summarizes their attitude: "Being interested in filling their own stomachs, they missed the opportunity to fill their souls."

Jesus presents himself to these superficial

UNIFORM

followers as "The bread of life" (v. 35). Notice several things about this heavenly bread.

First, this bread SATISFIES (v. 35). The phrases, "shall never hunger" and "shall never thirst," contrast the bread of heaven with the manna which was given miraculously in the Old Testament through Moses. Manna met a temporary need, and filled a physical hunger. Jesus, as the bread of life, meets an eternal need and fills a spiritual hunger. Everyone suffers spiritual malnutrition until he eats the bread of heaven. Only faith in the Lord Jesus expressed by the phrase, "cometh to me," can bring genuine satisfaction.

This bread of heaven also SUSTAINS (vv. 36-40). Since God is the initiator in the salvation process (v. 37), then he can be expected to sustain those whom he saves. Physical bread keeps us from physical death temporarily.

Spiritual bread keeps us from spiritual death eternally. Using the phrase, "came down from heaven," our Lord makes an unmistakable claim to heavenly origin. McClaren was right when he wrote: "Heaven must come to earth if earth is ever to rise to heaven." Jesus could do more than fill empty stomachs. He also fills empty hearts.

God's initiative in our salvation in no way annuls our responsibility. Verse 37 holds in divine tension God's sovereignty and human responsibility. While it is wonderfully true that the Father "gives us to the Son," it is equally true that we must "come to him," and "believe on him" (v. 40). Spurgeon on one occasion was asked how he reconciled these two truths. He replied, "I never try to reconcile friends."

Next, the bread of heaven SEPARATES (vv. 41-50). Jesus' assertion that he was the bread of life caused his followers to murmur. They questioned his heavenly origin. He could not have been the "bread of life" unless he was the "bread which came down from heaven." As

they became more and more aware of the implications of his claim to heavenly origin, their unbelief became more pronounced. It is still true that Christ's claim to deity is the truth which separates genuine believers from pretentious, self-serving religious exploiters.

Last, (v. 51), we see that this bread of heaven is destined to SUFFER. When he says, "The bread that I will give is my flesh," he is making a direct reference to his forthcoming death on the cross (John 3:16; 10:11, 15). "To eat this bread" is synonymous with "believing on Christ." In the physical realm, it is true that "you are what you eat." If we fill our minds and our bodies with junk, it will be evidenced in our intellectual and physical health. Those who want to be Christlike must feed on him. We are what we eat!

The best definition of witnessing which I have ever heard is "One beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." Sunday is Witness Commitment Day. Let's share the Bread of Life.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates, Brandon.

Staff changes

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, has called Joey Little as minister of youth. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Fred Holcombe Jr. of Tupelo, has



Holcombe

been called by Jericho Church, Baldwin, as minister of music and youth director, effective Nov. 5. Holcombe received his education from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., in December 1986.

Jerry Mixon, pastor of First Church, Winona, for the past 7½ years, recently resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Hot Springs, Ark. Mixon has served on the Miss. Baptist Convention Board, its Executive Committee, and numerous state and associational committees, as well as first vice president of the convention. His first Sunday in Hot Springs will be Jan. 14.

North Hills Church, Gulf Coast, has called Doyle Sellers as pastor.

Union Church, Picayune, called J. D. Batson, of Poplarville, as minister of music and associate pastor, effective Nov. 5. His previous place of service was First Church, Poplarville. He received his education from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. G. A. McCoy is pastor.

Clinton Worthey has resigned the pastorate of Limestone Church, Lee County, to take the pastorate of Victory Church, Monroe County.

Robert J. Sanderson resigned as pastor of the Bunker Hill Church, Marion County, Dec. 17, 1989. He became pastor of Springfield Church, Morton, this month.

Edd Holloman has resigned as pastor of Leaf River Church, Smith Association, and is available for supply and revivals. His address is Rt. 3, Box 313A, Quitman, Miss. 39355 (phone 601-776-6007).

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Nov. 1, 1989 -
Nov. 30, 1989
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Mrs. Cecil Boswell
Mrs. Jamie M. Little
Mrs. S. B. Garner
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm W. Heard
Mr. Joe Litton
Mrs. H. G. Mills
Willie E. Lofton
Mr. Tom O. Risher
Mrs. Shirley Davis Lorenz
Mrs. Ruth Scott Legan
Mrs. C. K. Lowther, Sr.
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Mr. Bennett McArthur
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Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Garrett
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. McDade
Mrs. J. L. McCaskill
Kitty McDaniel
Mrs. Grace Ashburn
Mr. Bruce McDaniel
Ms. Claudine Davis
Bill Davis
Sue Reynolds
Mrs. Frances McDevitt
Mr. & Mrs. Lee R. Ard
Mrs. Gayle McDill
Forest Baptist Church
Mr. W. A. McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Cubert Patton
Mrs. E. G. McDonald
Mrs. J. V. Vessell
Mrs. Maudie Mae McFerrin
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Aultman
Brian Eley & Sheri McHann
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith, Jr.
Mrs. Jean McKee
Faye Smith
Shirley McMurry
Mrs. Hoyle R. Grant
Sarah C. McMurray
Mr. J. W. McMurray
Mr. M. L. McWilliams
Mrs. M. L. McWilliams

Mr. Frederick Mellen
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon Alley
Mrs. Marion C. Spell
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Mr. & Mrs. Roy Anderson Jr.
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Esther Sunday School, FBC Nesbit
FBC, Nesbit
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Wilda Coltrin
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Orville Thomas
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Mr. Robert L. Thompson, Jr.
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Mr. Myles Thompson
Mrs. Ruby A. Sherman
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Mr. Robert Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert E. Bishop
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Myers
Rev. Charlie W. Thompson
Mrs. Robert E. Weathersby
Thornton Thompson
Mrs. Luther D. Moore Jr.
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Josephine Townsend
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**Dec. 1, 1989-
Dec. 31, 1989**

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(To Be Continued)

New Executive Director



On January 1, 1990 Rev. Ronny Robinson assumed the responsibilities of Executive Director of "Mississippi's Largest Family". Here Brother Ronny is pictured in Powell Chapel on the India Nunnery Campus leading a time of staff devotional.

Brother Ronny has eight years experience as a member of The Village Board of Trustees. For the past thirteen years, while working with the Mississippi State Department of Corrections, he has served as bi-vocational pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Lincoln County.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to meet Brother Ronny we know that when you do you will join the enthusiasm of both The Village children and The Village staff in welcoming Brother Ronny to "Mississippi's Largest Family."

Merit-making in Thailand welcomes the new year

By Maxine Stewart

In Bangkok, as in major cities in other parts of the world, the celebration to welcome the New Year begins on the eve of Dec. 31. It often starts with a festive meal bringing families and friends together for an evening of seeing the old year out and the new year in. At some of those occasions, plans are made for merit-making on New Year's Day, getting the new year off to a 'good start.'

Before midnight on New Year's Day, many Thai people watch television or listen to the radio to hear the New Year speeches and advice given by His Majesty King Bhumiphol Adulyadej and by the Supreme Patriarch, the head Buddhist monk. Near midnight, the SANGHA (group of Buddhist monks) chant teachings and blessings on a nationwide broadcast. The people are challenged to look back on their lives over the past year to consider whether or not they have done their duties to themselves, to their country, and to their religion.

Thai people, generally speaking, believe they should be able to expect to have an easier, more enjoyable, more comfortable life in the coming new year. But they believe it depends entirely on whether or not they have good KARMA (done enough good — made enough merit). A Buddhist teaching "Do good — receive good. Do bad — receive bad," is strongly believed in by the Thai people. If they expect life to improve, they believe they must do more merit-making — like giving more food to the Buddhist monks and more money to the Buddhist temples.

When something bad happens to a Thai person (a Buddhist person), the usual reaction of other Thais is, "He deserved it. He had it coming because of his KARMA." They feel he has done something really bad at sometime in his life (or in a former life). Sympathy is not often expressed when one experiences something bad or even tragic — whether it is illness, a car accident, loss of limb, loss of personal possessions, his job, family split, or whatever.

In Bangkok, SANAM LUANG (a large park near the Royal Palace) is the center of the New Year's Eve celebration. Thousands gather there to welcome in the New Year and to enjoy the fireworks display, at stroke of midnight.

Merit is made in many ways in Thailand on New Year's Day. One of the ways many Thai Buddhists perform merit-making is by giving alms



After the food and other items have been distributed to the Buddhist monks by the merit-makers on New Year's Day in SANAM LUANG Park in Bangkok, Thailand, many of the people gather under a nearby canopy to hear some of the leading Buddhist monks chant New Year's blessings. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

to the monks. It is an annual affair for thousands to gather at SANAM LUANG early on New Year's Day morning to give alms to monks who have been invited from various temples in Bangkok.

Although my first New Year's Day in Thailand was more than 30 years ago, I had never gone to SANAM LUANG on the first day of the year until 1988. I decided to go to take photographs. It was an experience I had never observed. Hundreds of Buddhist monks walked very orderly in single file in front of numerous rows of tables set up with a display of offerings by families or individuals.

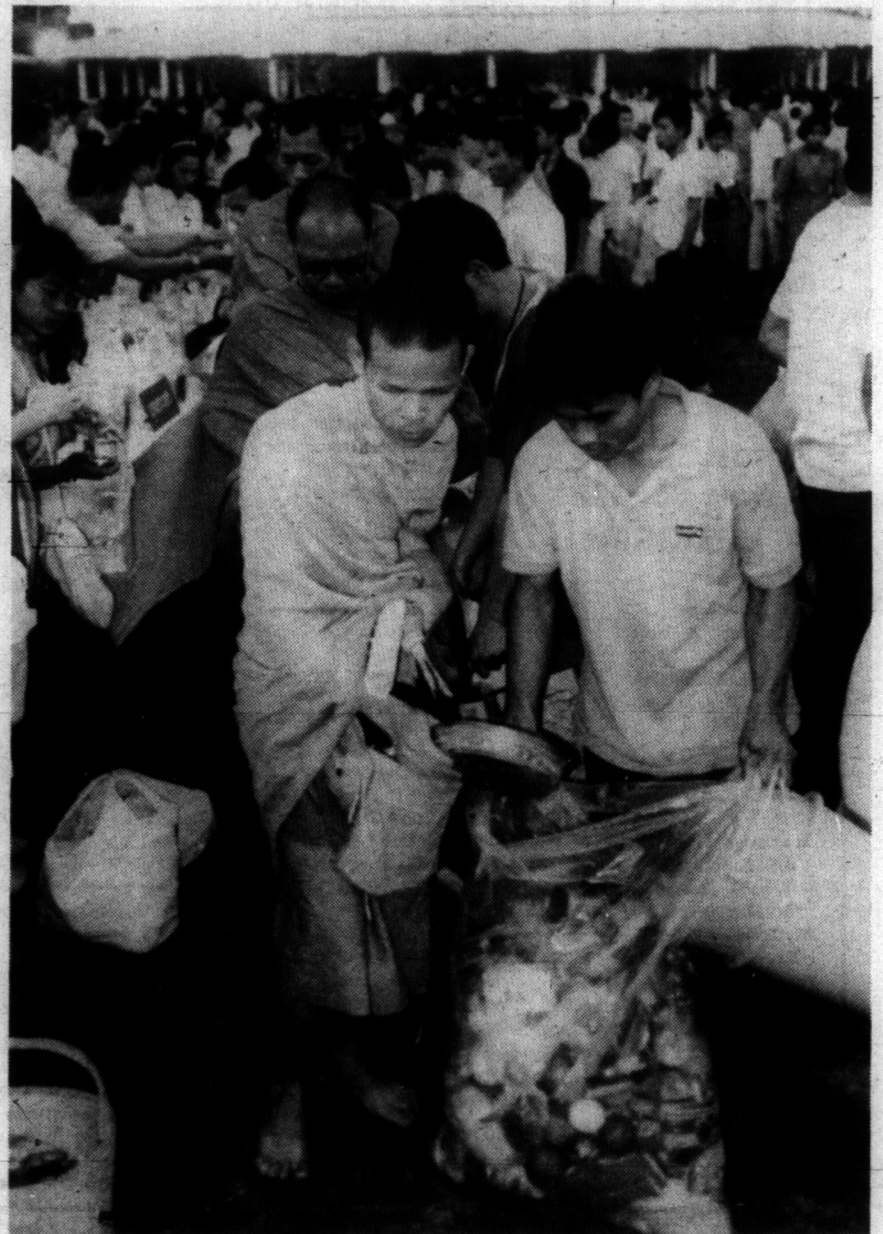
It had never occurred to me that some of the monks would 'elbow' each other out of the way or push into a group of monks in order to be in on the receiving of alms, but I saw this more than once that morning. As cars stopped along the street surrounding the park, some of the monks would rush out (some actually ran a few steps) to receive their offerings without the donor even getting out of the car. Some on the outer edge of the group used their elbows and hips to try to make their way to the hands of the merit-makers.

Many of the monks had helpers with large plastic bags and large plastic buckets to assist them in keeping their monk's bowl (some call it the begging

bowl) emptied out in order to receive more alms. This is a BIG day! People are not only giving freely, they are giving generously. "Do good — receive good."

In the main area of the park, a Thai man was handing out envelopes with what I assumed to be monetary offerings as his merit-making alms. The monks were closing in on him. He kept trying to get the monks to form a line and file through in an orderly manner. Although he made numerous requests to this effect, it was never accomplished. The group kept pressing in on him, crowding him to the point that he would have to keep taking steps backwards, still requesting them to become more orderly. His facial expression was one of disappointment — perhaps a bit of disgust, certainly disapproval — at the conduct of some of those in his midst wearing the saffron robes.

Thai people, generally speaking, love a festive atmosphere. They thoroughly enjoy celebrating, whether it is a Thai holiday, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, New Year's Day, or Christmas. Few Thai people have any concept of the real meaning of Christmas; yet they have big Christmas celebrations. With the number of Christians in Thailand being 0.83 percent, only a small percent-



A Buddhist monk's helper empties his alms bowl at SANAM LUANG Park in Bangkok, Thailand, on New Year's Day morning as merit-makers give alms. By having the large plastic bags, the alms bowl can be refilled many, many times during those early morning hours. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

age of Thai people are even aware that Jesus was born on Christmas Day. They do not know that it is because of his birth that we celebrate Christmas, and that without CHRIST there is no CHRISTmas! The vast majority do not know that he came to save people like themselves. He said, "I have come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10) That includes Thai people who do not know him. But how can people want to be

'saved' when they don't know they are 'lost'?

As Thai people begin the New Year, the blessing they really need is a close walk with Jesus Christ, WHO IS OUR MERIT, and who has the greatest gift for everyone — the gift of eternal life with him! He is ready to give this gift to anyone who is willing to receive it, including his fellow Asians.

Stewart is missionary representative, Thailand.

RAs and GAs support Lottie with bike-a-thon

Franklin Association held an RA/GA bike-a-thon Dec. 2 at Franklin High School Track. Special speaker was Charlie Seale of O'Zion Church.

Thirty eight GAs and RAs rode in the bike-a-thon. Each had taken pledges for the number of miles he or she would ride. This money was collected and the children took this back into their own churches and applied it to their Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering goal.

Seven churches were represented. The most miles ridden was by Jamie Seale of Providence Church, Meadville; and the most money raised was by Stan Hill of Providence Church, Meadville.

Over \$1,500 was raised by the bike-a-thon!

Randy Priest of Providence Church is the Franklin associational RA leader and Nancy Butler of Pleasant Valley Church is the associational GA leader.

Benham resigns from HMB

ATLANTA (BP) — David Benham, an American Indian who has worked with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for 22 years, has resigned in protest of a staff reorganization that he charges is evidence of "a

regression to an old but resurging racism."

Benham, a missionary among American Indians for seven years and a member of the Home Mission Board staff for 15 years, said he plans to return to Arkansas and work in his family's insurance business.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, in accepting Benham's resignation, issued a brief statement "categorically and emphatically denying his allegations."

Benham, 47, is a native of Fayetteville, Ark., and had worked with the board's language missions and church extension staff for 15 years. For five years, he was a missionary among American Indians in Fort Worth, Texas, and Tuba City, Ariz. He also was language missions program leader for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention for two years. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Southwestern Seminary and Golden Gate Seminary, where he earned the doctor of ministry degree.

Tate Street plans Bible conference

Tate Street Church, Corinth, Alcorn Association, will hold a mid-winter Bible conference Jan. 17-19.

Speakers will include Phil Waldrep, evangelist from Decatur, Ala.; Bobby Moore, pastor of Broadway Church, Olive Branch; Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, Ark.; and Delton Beall, pastor, First Church, Forrest City, Ark. Services will begin at 7 each night. Tommy N. Snyder is pastor.

Wm. Carey names pre-nursing director

Alan Hix has been named pre-nursing director for the New Orleans campus of William Carey College.

As pre-nursing director, Mr. Hix will be responsible for securing adjunct faculty, coordinating scheduling, textbook orders and will also coordinate student activities with the Student Government Association and the Carey Nurses Association.

Hix has served churches in Louisiana and Georgia as pastor and minister of music. He is a graduate of Shorter College and earned the master of divinity degree in biblical studies from the New Orleans Seminary. He is a candidate there for the doctorate of theology in biblical studies.

There are 3,817 Southern Baptist missionaries serving throughout America (figure updated quarterly).

There are approximately 350 staff and support personnel who work in the HMB offices in Atlanta, Ga.

Baptist Record

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901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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January 11, 1990